

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims are as follows:

- 1-15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously Presented) A device for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
an upstream connector for connecting to a computer through a serial bus using a serial bus protocol, wherein the device is external to the computer;
at least one legacy expansion bus structure, each legacy expansion bus structure having a legacy bus protocol; and
a bus control module connected to the upstream connector and to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure, wherein the bus control module is adapted to provide a protocol conversion between the serial bus protocol and the legacy bus protocol, and is adapted to provide power to the computer through the serial bus.
17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes a PCI bus structure.
18. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes an ISA bus structure.
19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes an EISA bus structure.
20. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes a PCMCIA bus structure

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, further comprising at least one expansion slot connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
22. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one expansion card for coupling with the at least one expansion slot, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one serial port.
23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one expansion card for coupling with the at least one expansion slot, wherein the at least one expansion card includes at least one parallel port.
24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one modem connector connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one network connector connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
26. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one DSL port connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, further comprising at least one cable modem port connected to the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the serial bus includes a Universal Serial Bus (USB).
29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, further comprising an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) coupled to and controlled and monitored by the control module.

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30. (Previously Presented)) The device of claim 29, wherein the bus control module controls a plurality of switches to control power from the UPS to a plurality of external devices.
31. (Previously Presented) A device for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
an upstream connector for connecting to a computer through a Universal Serial Bus (USB) using a USB protocol, wherein the device is external to the computer;
a PCI bus structure having a PCI bus protocol; and
a bus control module connected to the upstream connector and to the PCI bus structure, wherein the bus control module is adapted to provide a protocol conversion between the USB protocol and the PCI bus protocol, and is adapted to provide power to the computer through the USB.
32. (Previously Presented) A method for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure in a device external to a computer, wherein each legacy expansion bus structure has a legacy bus protocol;
communicating between the device and the computer using a serial communication protocol
providing power to the computer through a serial communication bus; and
providing a protocol conversion between the serial communication protocol and the legacy bus protocol for each of the at least one legacy expansion bus structure.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing a PCI bus structure.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing an ISA bus structure.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing an EISA bus structure.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein providing at least one legacy expansion bus structure includes providing a PCMCIA bus structure
37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein communicating between the device and the computer using a serial communication protocol includes communicating between the device and the computer using a USB protocol.
38. (Previously Presented) A method for expanding a computer interface, comprising:
providing a PCI bus structure in a device external to a computer, wherein the PCI bus structure has a PCI bus protocol;
communicating between the device and the computer using a USB protocol;
providing power to the computer through the USB; and
providing a protocol conversion between the USB protocol and the PCI bus protocol.